

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



January 2022

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No. 450



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The doom and gloom which followed the predictions of a sharp increase in infections, and the subsequent tightening of restrictions left many of us wondering if we will ever return to normal. The Lodge had previously settled in to a comfortable, but cautious approach to our meetings, with whatever restrictions put in place beforehand allowing us to at least return to regular meetings. We all held our breath when the Omicron news hit us just before Christmas, not really knowing what the impact was going to be.

However, whilst infections did spike, the effects upon the health and wellbeing of those affected was far more benign than we had been told to expect. The result is that we now are again optimistic about the way forward, and we wholeheartedly believe that things are improving. Holidays are again on the horizon. Social distancing is being reduced, and who knows we may even be able to dispense with fask coverings in the months ahead.

That installs an optimism in all of us that we will be able to fulfil our planned syllabus, and our Lodge, and those Sister Lodges around us will slowly ease back in to operation. We have our 198th Anniversary Dinner and only a couple of weeks later our Annual Burns Supper – both extremely popular events in our calendar to look forward to and there will be an injection of assurance and confidence in all we do.

Sandwiched in between these events is the next regular meeting of Lodge Randolph, a sure sign that Lodges are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. Whilst Rockmount RAC decided to cancel their January meeting, they fully intend to return in February and that is good news for all.

We must do all that we can to encourage absent Brethren to return, persuading them that all necessary precautions are being taken to ensure that they will be safe. I know it will be difficult for some to return, after almost 2 years away, but perhaps we need a operate an informal 'Buddy' system where each of us take on a Brother who's been absent, and personally encourage them to give it a try.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on :

Friday 4th February

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

198th Anniversary Dinner

Harmony



Friday 18th February 2022

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Annual Burns Supper

By the 'Guid Brethren o' the Lodge'

**Please note that the Regular Meeting
Will commence at 7pm**

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th January, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred the popular 'Prisoner of War' dramatization, which was well received by all in attendance.

Thereafter, the Brethren and our guests retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed an excellent harmony in a relaxed atmosphere.

It is most unfortunate that the attendance on that evening was greatly affected by appalling wet and windy weather.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.56pm

Attendance : 41

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

18th January

£20 : Bro David Watson PM

£10 : Bro Robert Scott WSW

Bro Nicol Hynd PM (who has been filling in for Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer during his recovery), has started taking names for next year.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro Nicol as soon as possible.



Bro Rudyard Kipling

Rudyard Kipling, the famous English author, was born in India of English parents. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1880.

He was initiated in Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782, Lahore, Punjab, India in 1886. A special dispensation was necessary as he was only twenty years and six months at the time. When he took the degrees, there were four Holy Books upon the alter representing the dominant religions in the area. Upon his rising he was immediately elected secretary; and he prepared the minutes of that meeting himself.

Many years later he wrote:

"I was secretary for some years of Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782, in Lahore, which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member of Brahma Somaj, a Hindu; passed by a Mohammedan; and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course on the level, and the only difference anyone would notice was that at the banquets, some of the Brethren, who were debarred by caste from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates."

BITS & PIECES

- Any brother wishing to try their hand at degree work is more than welcome to come along to the lodge instruction class on a Monday evening at 7.30 pm, where the Lodge will be rehearsing for the new Masonic year
- Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head & any brother wishing to contribute towards the capitation fee should see him as soon as possible.
- Our annual Burns Supper is on Friday 18th February (*immediately after our Regular Meeting*). Bro Robert Scott WSW has tickets available at £15..
- It's good to see that the COVID restrictions are slowly being eased, and hopefully before too long we may even be back to normal or whatever 'normal' is !
- It is pleasing to hear that Lodge Paisley St Mirrins, No.129 have invited Union & Crown to carry-out a dramatized degree as part of their 250th Anniversary celebrations later this year.
- On a similar note, Lodge Darvel, No.971 have renewed their invitation to confer a dramatized degree in the months ahead. The original visit was postponed by Covid.
- Its good to see a few Brethren taking advantage of the Grand Lodge amnesty to make sure they were 'Clear in Lodge Books'.
- Sorry to hear that Wee Adam Watson had a short spell in hospital after taking unwell. Thankfully he's making a good recovery at home.
- The Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday 11th June at Muckhart Golf Club, near Dollar. Anyone interested should contact Bro Ronnie MacIsaac R.W.M.
- We congratulate Bro Jimmy Laing and his lovely wife Ann who are shortly about to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
- Congratulations to Bro Bud Gauld PM who recently celebrated 30 years as 'Mine Host' at the popular Brig Inn in Cross Arthurlie Street,

In 1794 a Masonic half penny was minted in honour of the eldest son of King George III, who later succeeded his father in 1820 as George IV. From 1790 to 1813 he served the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) as Grand Master. The coin was struck by Bro James Sketchley of Birmingham who created it to commemorate the election of the Prince as Grand Master. These coins were so superior in their copper content that they became legal tender. In 1817 they were withdrawn from circulation by government order.



Dates for your Diary



Friday 4th February Regular Meeting of the Lodge, followed by the 198th Anniversary Dinner

Monday 14th February Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Friday 18th February Regular Meeting of the Lodge **at 7pm**, followed by the Annual Burns Supper.

In addition to the above (COVID Restrictions allowing) the R.W.M. may be involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)



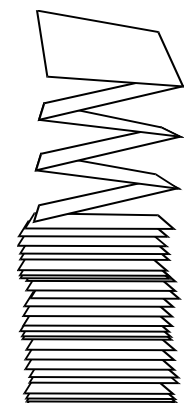
Did you know ???

- That a Brother from St. Louis, Missouri, was Initiated, Passed and Raised just a few days before he married his Fiancée all in the same Lodge Room
- Bro Charles McCue, was initiated in his native Northern Ireland, became a mason at the age of 18 in 1774. He emigrated to Canada in 1837 at the age of 81 and affiliated to St Johns Lodge No 68, Ingersoll, Ontario. When he died on 5th May 1870, he had been a mason for almost 95 years
- The inventors of the first hot air balloon were Joseph Montgolfier, Michel Montgolfier, and Jacques Etienne. All were members of the Nine Sisters Lodge in France.

Paper Appeal

Due to a rapid decline in our stock in recent months, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier paper, Whilst we use more white, than anything else, we are low in coloured paper, which we use for Front Covers etc.

Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.



Rest assured that it will be **Gratefully received, and faithfully applied !"**

Famous Freemasons

(This month we read of one of the forgotten members of our Royal Family)

Bro Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught & Strathearn

Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert was born on May 1st, 1850 at Buckingham Palace. He was the seventh child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Like his siblings he was educated in his younger life by tutors. It is claimed that Arthur became the favourite child of Queen Victoria. In 1866 he enrolled at the Royal Military College at Woolwich. After graduating he went on to serve in the Corps of Royal Engineers, Royal Regiment Artillery and Rifle Brigade. He served in South Africa, Canada, Ireland, Egypt and India.



Arthur's most notable service was when he served in Canada. In Canada he served defending the interests of the British Empire against the Fenian Raids. The Fenian Raids were led by the Fenian Brotherhood, a group based in the United States who sought to apply pressure to the British to leave Ireland. This was done by attacking British outposts in Canada. While he was serving in Canada he travelled to the United States and met with President Ulysses S. Grant to discuss the raids.

While serving in Canada, the Canadian people became enamoured with Arthur. He was given the title of Chief of the Six Nations by Iroquois in Ontario. He was given the name Kavakoudge which means the sun flying from east to west under the guidance of the Great Spirit. With this he became the 51st chief of six nations, he was allowed to vote in the council meetings in matters associated with the tribe. This broke a long standing tradition that only 50 chiefs of the Six Nations were in council. The wife of the then Governor General wrote to Queen Victoria that the people of Canada hoped that Arthur would one day return as Governor General.

He was initiated in the Prince of Wales Lodge No 259 in March 1874. The Brethren of the Lodge were permitted to wear a 'Garter Blue border' on their aprons by order of a warrant signed by HRH The Duke of Sussex, Grand Master,

He became Senior Grand Warden in the United Grand Lodge of England; and served as Provincial Grand Master of Sussex(1886-1901), He was an Honorary Member, Grand Lodges of Scotland and an Honorary Past Grand Master, of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In 1901, his brother resigned from the position of Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England to assume the throne as King Edward VII. Prince Arthur was then elected as the new Grand Master and was re-elected 37 further times.

In 1911, Arthur returned to Canada as Governor General and the first Governor General of Royal descent. While Arthur, his wife and youngest daughter lived in Canada they became interested in the outdoor activities of the country. They took up camping, the Prince learned how to skate and the travelled throughout the country. He also travelled to the United States and met with President William Howard Taft.

Arthur was Governor General when World War I broke out. When Canadian troops were called to serve in the war, Arthur put on his uniform and went to the training grounds and barracks to see the troops off. He also pushed for better readiness of the troops and the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, which he sponsored a cup, the Connaught Cup, to reward the best marksmanship. All of this caused the sitting

Prime Minister of Canada, Robert Borden to state that he felt Arthur was overstepping his constitutional conventions as Governor General. Borden stated that Arthur "laboured under the handicap of his position as a member of the Royal Family and never realised his limitations as Governor General."

After returning to Britain, Arthur began to limit his public appearances after his wife passed away in 1917. One of his last public appearances was in his role as president of the Boy Scouts Association in the United Kingdom. He was a friend and admirer of Lord Baden-Powell who founded the organization. Arthur opened the 3rd World Scout Jamboree at Arrowe Park on the Wirral in 1929.

When World War II, broke out, Arthur who was in his nineties put his uniform back on and served as an inspiration to troops in the British Army. Many saw him as a grandfather figure.

Prince Arthur died on 16 January 1942 at Bagshot Park, at the age of 91. A funeral service for the Duke was held at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, after which his body was placed temporarily in the Royal Vault beneath St. George's Chapel in Windsor. He was later reburied on 19 March 1942 in the Royal Burial Ground, Frogmore.



Roof of the World

The lodge with the highest meeting place on the globe is 'Roof of the World Lodge' No. 1094, of Oroya, Peru. The elevation of the lodge room in the Andes Mountains is 14,167 feet above sea level.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland chartered the Lodge in 1911. Considered the highest Masonic lodge in the world, the group met at an altitude of 14,208 feet above sea level. Engineers employed by the various mines and construction camps in Peru made up most of the membership. In 1914 the lodge requested a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland permitting them to hold a regular lodge meeting at the summit of Mt. Meiggs in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 17,575 feet. The dispensation was granted and on August 29, 1914, twenty-six Master Masons held according to some-- the highest regular meeting of its kind in the history of Freemasonry.

The Roof of the World lodge last met in the early 1990s, in San Isidro, Lima, Peru.

This photograph commemorates that 1914 meeting



(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we look at one of the Paisley Lodges)

Lodge Gleniffer, No.1219

Lodge Gleniffer was created on 6th May 1920 by a number of Brethren mostly members of Paisley St Mirrin's and Renfrew County Kilwinning. The first meeting was held in the Star Hotel in Paisley and a number of names considered however the founding members eventually selected the name Gleniffer, taken from the hills which are on the southern boundary of the town. One major decision taken by the founder members was that the Lodge was to be dry so that no alcohol was served at any function of the Lodge – a matter which remained the case until 1970 when the Provincial Grand Master of the day ruled that item of the bye-laws unconstitutional!



One other major decision by our founding fathers was to adopt a motto for the Lodge: Ne Vile Fano. This, translated from Latin, means bring nothing base to the Temple. That is a very high ideal and affects all aspects of our Masonic life and our speech so that improper language is challenged as it should be. Our members do not always reach that high ideal but we still strive to meet it.

For the first three decades of its life, the Lodge held its meeting in High Street, sharing premises with two of our sister Lodges: Paisley St James 1116 and Craigielea 1218. It is remarkable that one of our Sister Lodges and closest friends, Craigielea, was created by Grand Lodge on the same day together with Lodges between the numbers 1212 and 1219 others being in Avoch, Ullapool, Glasgow and Maybole. In 2003, the Lodges created on the same day came together for the first time – something they hope to continue over the years.

Gleniffer, like all of its Sister Lodges, had its problems in the late 1920' and 1930s but with the Second World War and beyond with the national desire to hold on to all that was traditional, the 1940s and 1950s had a large upsurge of members. A perusal of the Lodge minute books of the time shows a real optimism – sometimes almost bordering on arrogance! Change was not a concept much considered, why should one so consider it when every first degree had seven and then five new members with a waiting list stretching into at least one year? It was that kind of optimism which led to the three Lodges 1116, 1218 and 1219 purchasing the present Temple in 1957 but as a entertainer of the 1960s was to sing "the times they are a changing" – not quickly but changing they were. The 1970s however saw a brief revival in membership, committee membership, largely based on the well-remembered jubilee celebrations in 1970 and so yet any need for major change was never considered. It was however in the late 1970s and early 1980s that the Lodge began to undertake seriously the task of asking the membership a series of questions: why are some of you not attending as you promised to do, what has prevented you from taking office in the Lodge, is there anything that the Lodge can do to improve communication between you and the Lodge. With the change in Gleniffer Bye-Laws about the sale of alcohol, a license was obtained by the Lodge but a number of staunch members were also lost by this major change and thirty years on some have never returned; a sad loss.

In 1981, a further period of enthusiasm, the three owner Lodges surrendered their licenses and created the Maxwellton Masonic Social Club with a belief that this was a new era and that the Club would solve all financial problems: dream on! Too often the Brethren of Gleniffer, and most lodges, forget that a Lodge survives largely through the work and sound practice of its members – everything else is a bonus but cannot get in the way of hard Masonic work and principles. It became easy to sit back and not work as we should have

done and so by the time of the Lodge's 75th anniversary it became obvious that things were not as they should be. Older Past master's compared that ceremony to the 1970 Jubilee even if some of them were young office-bearers at the 1970 event. Younger members and office-bearers were returning from visits to other Lodges and saying "why doesn't this or that happen in our Lodge?" Inevitably it was financial matters that brought sense back into the equation and the payment of a brewer's loan for the Club.

The Master of the day invited all members to a special meeting and asked a question: do we surrender the Charter or seek a different way forward for the Lodge? The answer was not straightforward but it demanded an honest answer. We had the option of inviting representatives from Provincial Grand Lodge to assist us: we decided against that in the belief that if we could resolve the problems, no-else could. Not every Lodge has that option but we did. Frankly although money brought our plight to the fore but money was not the real issue; we had and have a number of members with their own business or in senior posts in public institutions who could and would have paid the bills. After a lengthy and sometimes heated not blame-free meeting, we did the normal Masonic thing and created a sub-committee but unusually it was a committee of 2 with powers to co-opt and not a senior office-bearer in sight. That was probably against every known Grand Lodge law but there are times when you have to be adventurous!

The Committee became known as the Strategy Committee and it set out the problem issues under four headings: Finance, Education, Progression in Office and Planning and these four are still very much to the fore in Gleniffer practice. Some of the ideas tried out were as follows:

Finance – a proper Lodge budget was created so that we had income against a known expenditure. Members were and are asked to sponsor each harmony so that income from harmonies adds to Lodge income. Members are asked to consider annually the level of giving to the Lodge and if they are not there to think what they would have given if they were present.

Education – creation of a standing committee to revise the Lodge ritual and improve the instruction class. Remind the Lodge that meetings should be about more than degrees: Masonic teaching is an important matter for every member.

Progression – no man should be expected to progress to the Wardens chairs before they have a sound grasp of ritual.

Planning – This was a weakness. We had to stop the cycle of 1, 2, 3 a Mark and a night off for good behaviour – we called it an Installation! The Lodge decided that before a Notice of Motion about anything came to the floor the reason for the change would be discussed in the Lodge – another item probably not entirely Constitutional but it works. A proposal was brought forward to meet monthly with no recess. This was not wholly welcomed but was implemented and it is doubtful if anyone would wish return to the old pattern.

Much has happened and is happening in Gleniffer with changes we hope are for the better. Since 1995 we have become again part of the Masonic movement and not one of its monuments. We are now in contact with even more Lodges in our Province and with Lodges in Cincinnati, in Tiree, in many parts of Ayrshire, in Lancashire and in 2005 to South Africa. We have added meaningfully to our Honorary Members list not least by the inclusion of Brother Reverend Joe Morrow.

On Saturday 25th September 2021, the Lodge held its Covid-belated Centenary and Re-dedication meeting with a Grand Lodge deputation, led by Bro Thomas Constable Smith, Depute Grand Master, in attendance.



The Thousandth Man

by Rudyard Kipling.

One man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a brother.
And it's worthwhile seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you,
But the Thousandth man will stand your friend
With the whole round world agin' you.

'Tis neither promise nor prayer nor show
Will settle the finding for 'ee.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em go
By your looks, or your acts, or your glory.
But if he finds you and you find him.
The rest of the world don't matter;
For the Thousandth Man will sink or swim
With you in any water.

You can use his purse with no more talk
Than he uses yours for his spendings,
And laugh and meet in your daily walk
As though there had been no lendings.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em call
For silver and gold in their dealings;
But the Thousandth Man he's worth 'em all,
Because you can show him your feelings.

His wrong's your wrong, and his right's your right,
In season or out of season.
Stand up and back it in all men's sight --
With that for your only reason!
Nine hundred and ninety-nine can't bide
The shame or mocking or laughter,
But the Thousandth Man will stand by your side
To the gallows-foot -- and after!

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from “The Mallet” of 35 Years Ago

No. 101

January 1987

REGULAR MEETINGS

6th January 1987 : This first meeting of 1987 saw the Past Masters of 307 confer the MM Degree on four candidates :

Ronald Mathieson, James Deveney, Gordon Dinning & James Gillespie

A fairly good degree was carried out and hopefully the many lessons of the MM Degree will not be lost on our latest Master Masons. At this meeting, Bro ALISTAIR ANDERSON, a member of Lodge Ubique in Dundee, was affiliated into the Lodge and we wish him many happy years among us.

Lodge Opened : 7.29pm Lodge Closed : 9.55pm Attendance : 155

(The D.O.C. asked us to make especial mention of this ! Well done Hughie, keep it up !)

At the regular meeting on 20th January, the following four candidates :

Jim Wade, Ronnie McFarlane, Tom Carr And Robert McArthur

were admitted to the E.A. Degree by the members of the Instruction Class. A competent degree was administered with the assembled Brethren giving the degree workers the utmost attention.

Lodge opened ; 7.30pm Lodge closed : 9.22pm Attendance : 147

Snow News

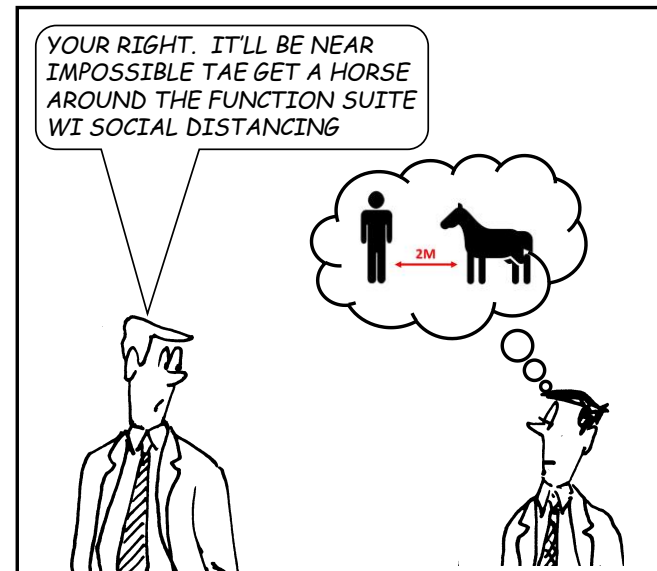
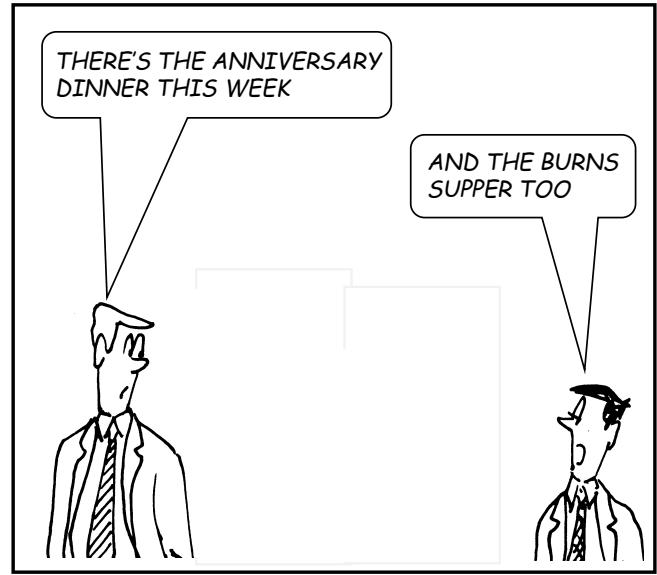
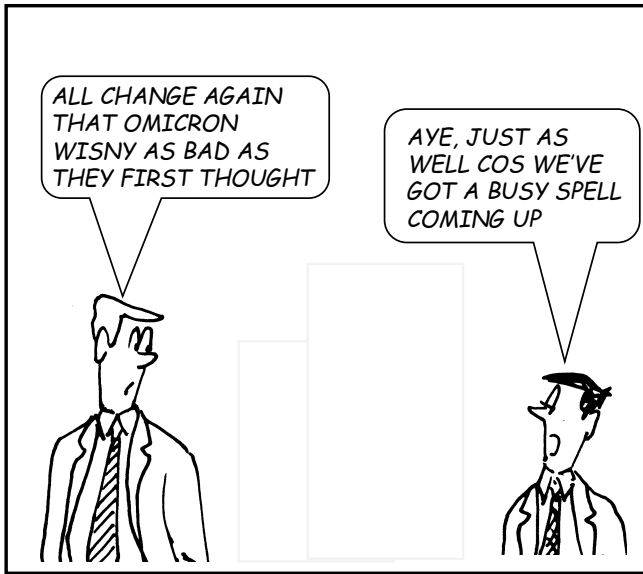
- Bro ANGUS TURNER arrived at the Royal Arch Meeting, during the heavy snow, pechin' and blawin' and hardly able to draw a breath - but he still made it ! That's a Mason for you !
- Fereneze Eastern Star Chapter had to cancel their regular meeting due to the snow.
- Bros JOHN MONTGOMERY & KENNY HILL are another two who deserve a pat on the back. Although they live in Paisley, they still turned up for their Bar Duty in the week when the snow was at its worst.
- Approximately 20 of our Brethren went along to Lodge St John's Busby to carry out the EA degree. It speaks volumes for our Brethren that they can amass such numbers in such terrible weather. (We hear that several Brethren had difficulty keeping their feet on the way back to the bus !)

From The Production Department

Our Production Team would like to apologise to Bro Raymond Smith WSW for any alterations in his recent article in the series “From the West”. The manuscript had been dropped off at the home of our typist and by the time she finally got round to actually typing it up, her dog had managed to chew a rather large section of it.

Fortunately the dog appears to be none the worse after its meal, although we hope that Bro Raymond and our readers managed to find the article equally digestible !

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW JANUARY 2022

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" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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